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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,736	09/26/2001	David C. Hovda	E-5-2	1485
21394	7590	03/02/2004	EXAMINER	
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION 680 VAQUEROS AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-3523			COHEN, LEE S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	9
DATE MAILED: 03/02/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3739

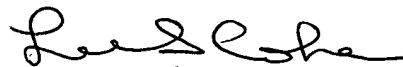
A reference relevant to the examination of this application may soon become available.

Ex parte prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lee S. Cohen whose telephone number is 703-308-2998. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 703-308-0994. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



Lee S. Cohen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

LSC
FEBRUARY 28, 2004